

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 976

By Hood

A RESOLUTION to recognize Head Coach Rick Insell and the Middle Tennessee State University women's basketball team upon completing an extraordinary season.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful sports teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to the State of Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, the Middle Tennessee State University women's basketball team is one such estimable sports team that achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2005-2006 season, establishing a record of twenty wins against only eleven losses on their way to claiming the Sun Belt Tournament Title; and

WHEREAS, the Middle Tennessee State University women's basketball team rolled through the Sun Belt Conference Tournament, prevailing over the powerhouse teams of Louisiana-Lafayette (84-58) and Arkansas State (90-64) to advance to the Sun Belt Tournament Championship Game; the Lady Blue Raiders completed their perfect Sun Belt tournament record by defeating Western Kentucky by the score of 84-73 to claim the Sun Belt Tournament Title; and

WHEREAS, the Middle Tennessee State University women's basketball team includes Monique Martin, Johnna Abney, LaCondra Mason, Krystle Horton, Starr Orr, Latoya Barclay, Tia Stovall, Chrissy Givens, Lakira Boyd, and Brittany Pittman; and

WHEREAS, Chrissy Givens was named Sun Belt Player of the Year, Sun Belt Defensive Player of the Year, Sun Belt Tournament Most Valuable Player, and Sun Belt First Team All-Conference; she was also voted to the *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-America Second Team; and

WHEREAS, Tia Stovall was named to the All-Sun Belt Tournament Team and the Sun Belt Third Team All-Conference, and Krystle Horton was voted to the Sun Belt Third Team All-Conference and the *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-America District IV Second Team; and

WHEREAS, in each of the past three years the Lady Blue Raiders have won twenty games or more, won the Sun Belt Conference Tournament Title, and advanced to the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament; and

WHEREAS, with great sportsmanship and outstanding character, the Middle Tennessee State University women's basketball team conducted themselves in a manner appropriate to the integrity of the State of Tennessee after a valiant but unsuccessful effort in the first round of the 2006 NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Blue Raiders led the Sun Belt Conference in attendance, averaging 2,558 per game, and they broke the school record for single game attendance with 4,811 during the 2006 Sun Belt Tournament Title Game; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the able leadership of Head Coach Rick Insell, the MTSU Women's Basketball team benefited from the hard work and guidance of Assistant Coaches, Allison Clark, Myra Fishback, Tom Hodges, and Kevin McMillan; Managers, Allison Bradley, Danielle Stewart, and Nick Tate; and Athletic Trainer, Alison Ness; Denise Gideon served the team in a media relations capacity; and

WHEREAS, the women's basketball players at Middle Tennessee State University epitomize all that is good in today's collegiate athlete, as they have achieved a premier level of success in competition while showing the highest degree of character both on and off the court; and

WHEREAS, the perseverance, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young women not only made possible an extraordinary basketball season, but also surely bode well for their success in every future enterprise; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the Middle Tennessee State University Lady Blue Raiders upon an amazing 2005-2006 season; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED
FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE
CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate Head Coach Rick Insell and the members of the
Middle Tennessee State University women's basketball team on an extraordinary season,
commend them upon winning their third consecutive Sun Belt Tournament Title, and wish them
every success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared
for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.